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Logie

[11] **4,322,053**

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[54] **FITTING ROOM MIRROR BRACKET**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/488**; 248/201; 248/220.1; 52/27

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 248/201, 220.1, 466, 248/475 R, 488, 490, 491; 52/35, 38, 288, 27; 108/42; 312/224, 238

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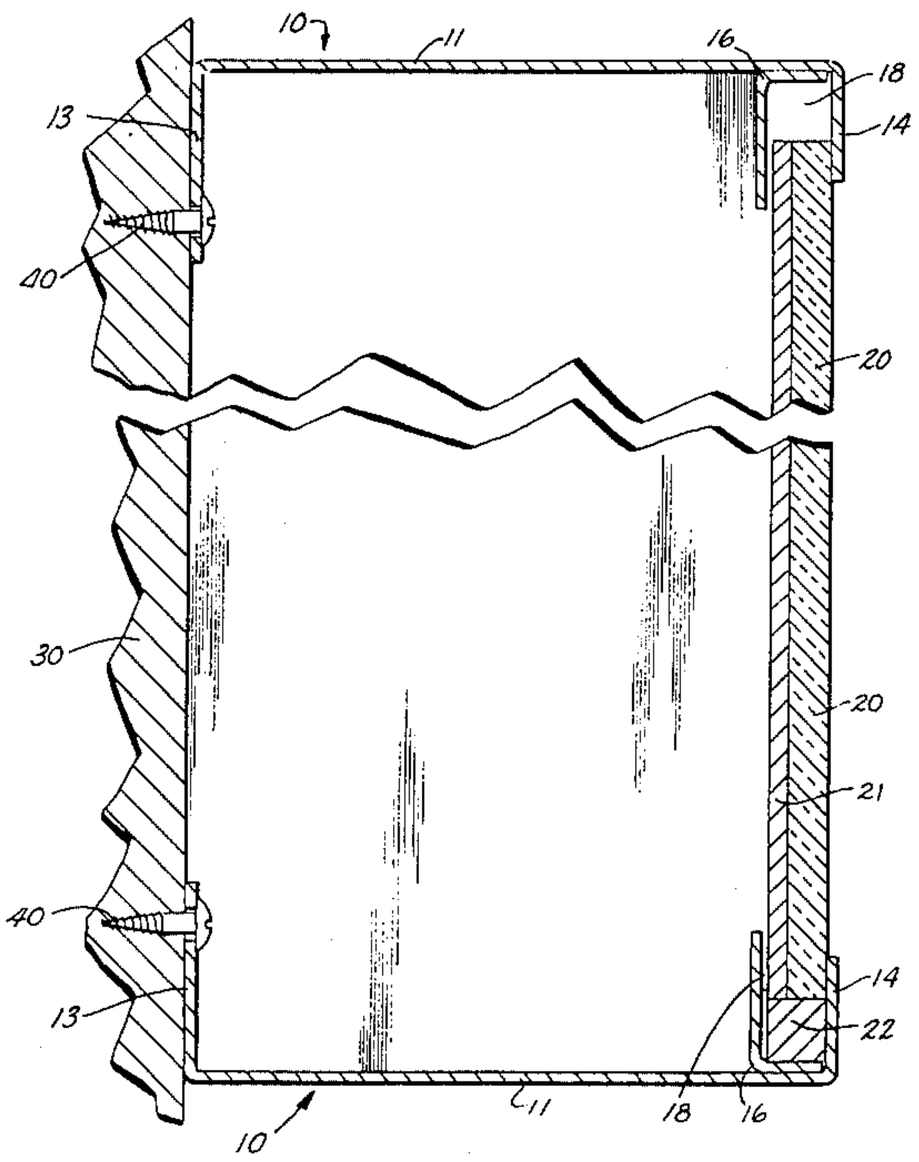
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Price, Heneveld, Huizenga & Cooper

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The specification discloses a fitting room mirror assembly in which the mirror is mounted at an angle in a corner of a fitting room using upper and lower nonapertured mounting brackets at the mirror's top and bottom respectively. Each mounting bracket comprises a nonapertured triangular plate, two edges of which fit snugly against the two walls of the corner while the third edge receives the mirror so that access to the space behind the mirror is prohibited.

26 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



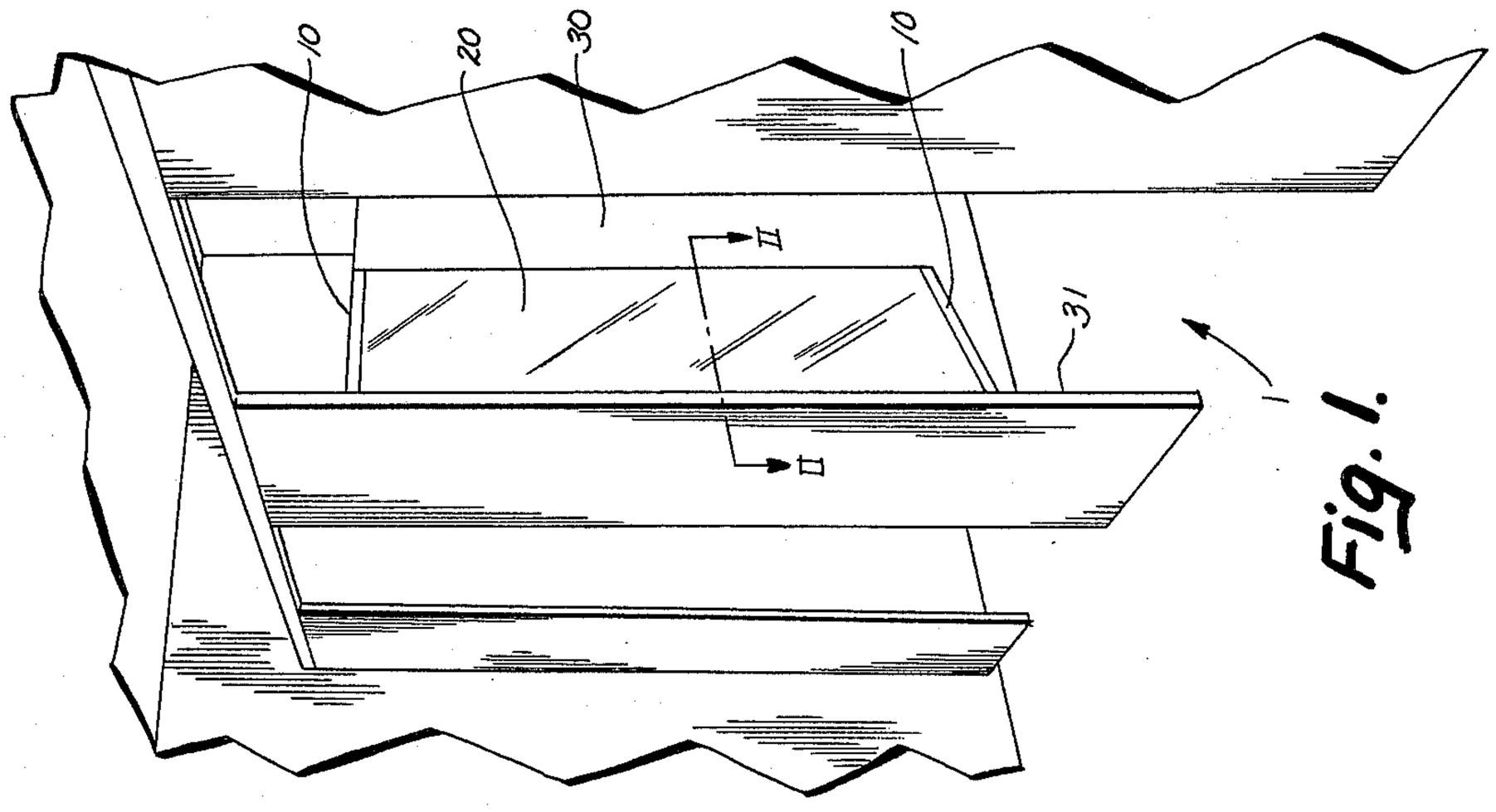

10
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Fig. 1.

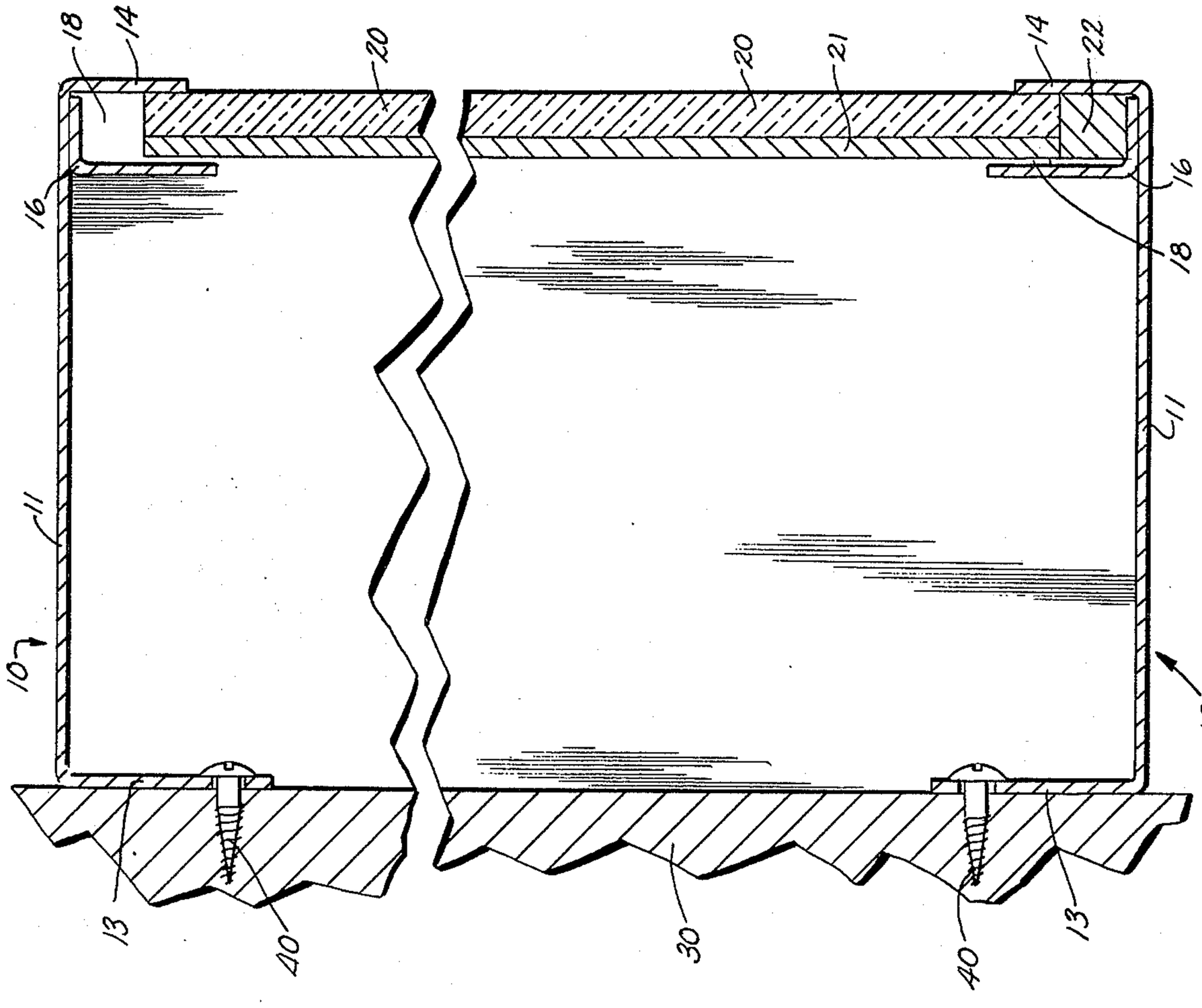
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Fig. 4.

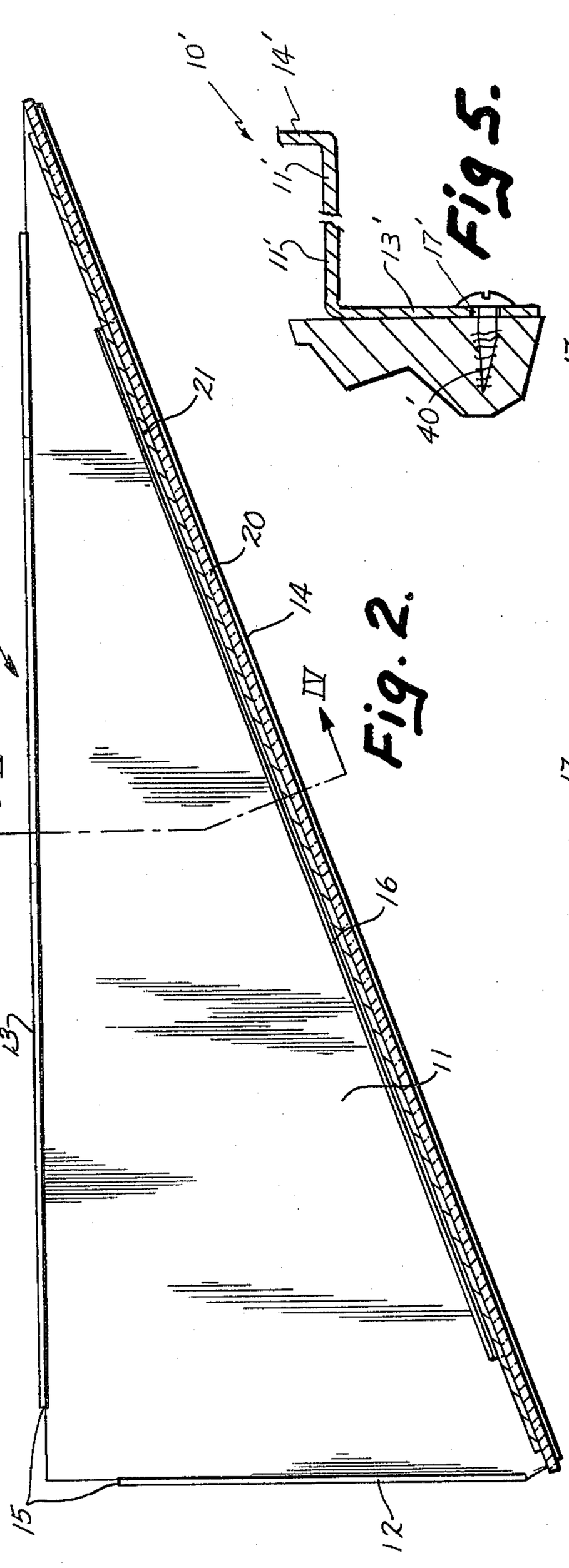

Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

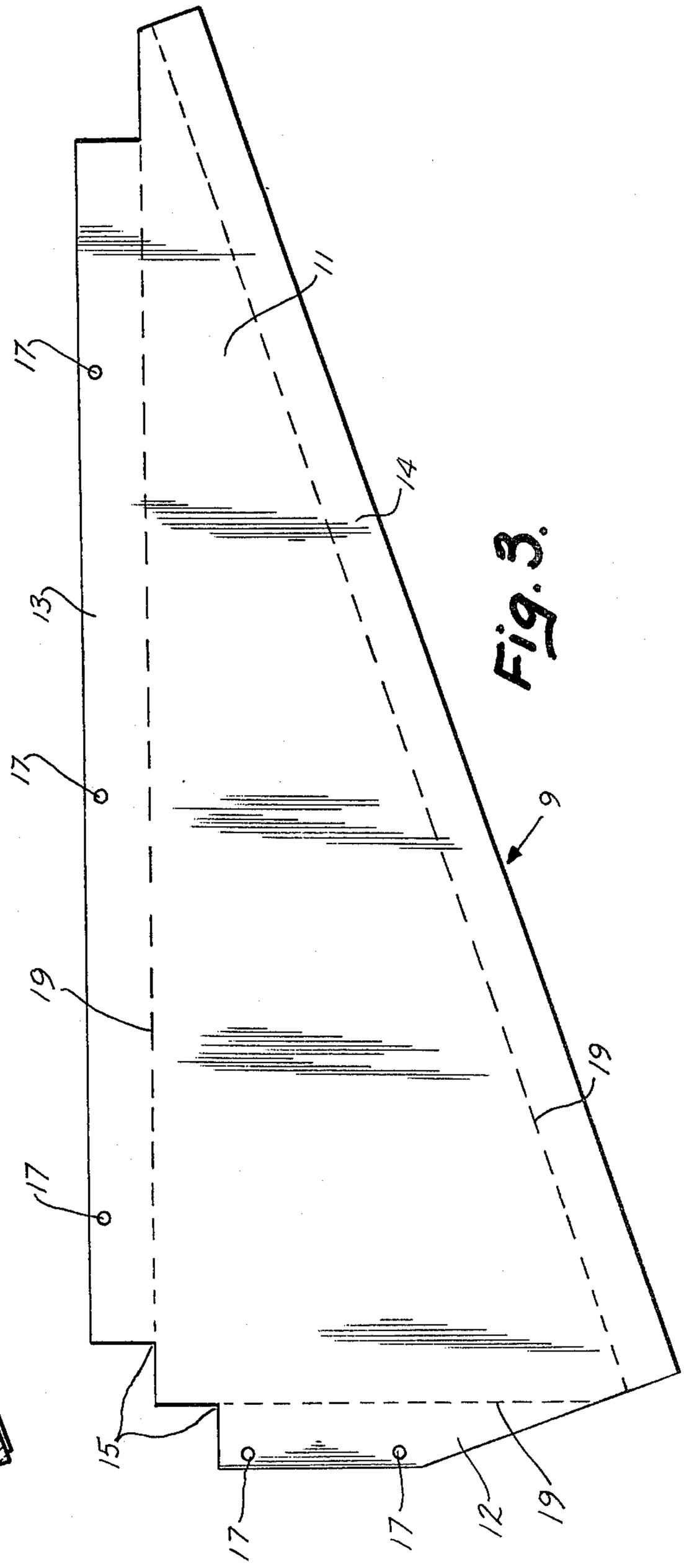

Fig. 3.

FITTING ROOM MIRROR BRACKET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to fitting room mirrors, particularly those mounted at an angle in a corner of a fitting room. Many clothing stores have serious problems with thievery. Utilizing a fitting room with a conventionally mounted corner mirror, a thief can abscond with new clothes by taking them into the room, removing their price tags and labels, changing into the new clothes, concealing his old clothes and the tags and labels from the new clothes behind the fitting room mirror and walking out of the store leaving no evidence of his crime. Some even put the new clothes over the old and simply hide the tags and labels behind the mirror. Although it is preferable to have an angled mirror in the corner of a fitting room to enable the honest customer to fully view a prospective clothing purchase, the potential for thievery makes this impractical. It is too easy to hide tags and old clothes behind the mirror. Therefore, many fitting rooms now have mirrors which are mounted flatly against the wall so that no clothing may be hidden behind them. This placement of the mirrors flat against the wall is irritating to some customers who wish to view their clothes from more than one angle, which is difficult to do with such placement in a small fitting room. Further, it is often still possible to slide tags and labels behind the mirror.

Artisans have either not attempted or been unable to solve the problem of placing a mirror at an angle in the corner of a fitting room while at the same time preventing access to the space behind the mirror. Prior art corner shelves which might be suitable for use in mounting a wall mirror have either some type of hole through them or gaps along their edges where they are mounted against the wall. Examples of such shelves can be seen in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,096,024 and 2,389,349. In addition to the holes in the surface of U.S. Pat. No. 2,096,024, a significant gap is created in the corner of both shelves. All of these apertures are large enough to push price tags and labels through. However, even if the thief can hide only the price tags and labels from the new clothes without being able to hide his old clothes, he may still commit the larceny by walking out of the fitting room wearing the new clothes over his old clothes. This is especially true of outerwear such as coats and jackets.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the present invention, access to the space behind a mirror mounted diagonally across a corner of a fitting room is prevented through the use of inexpensive mounting brackets. A pair of these brackets is installed in the corner of the fitting room, one above the other, with the mirror supported between them. Each bracket comprises a generally flat, nonapertured plate generally triangular in shape. Securing means are provided on two edges of each plate to attach the bracket to the two walls of the corner of the fitting room. Receiving means are provided on the third edge of each plate to secure and support either the top or bottom edge of the mirror. This third edge is substantially the same length as the mirror to be supported thereby so that the vertical edges of the installed mirror will be held securely against the fitting room walls. When the mirror is installed using the brackets of the present invention, access to the space behind the mirror is blocked (1) at top and bottom by the mounting brackets which are sealed on their three sides by the two walls and the mirror and (2) at the sides by the mirror which is held securely against the walls.

These and other objects, advantages and features of the invention will be more fully understood and appreciated by reference to the written specification and appended drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view through the open door of a fitting room with a mirror installed using the brackets of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of the installed mirror taken along horizontal plate II—II of FIG. **1**, showing the lower mounting bracket with the installed mirror;

FIG. **3** is a top view of the blank from which the mounting bracket is formed;

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the installed mirror taken along vertical plane IV—IV of FIG. **2**, showing the mirror and mirror backer installed using the mounting brackets of the present invention; and

FIG. **5** is a fragmentary view of an alternative embodiment of the lower mounting bracket shown in FIG. **4**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the preferred embodiment, the mounting bracket **10** has a generally triangular shape defined by plate **11** (FIGS. **2**, **3** and **4**). A downwardly bent mirror flange **14** runs along the hypotenuse of plate **11** while a downwardly bent side flange **12** and rear flange **13** run along the other two sides of plate **11**. These three flanges are formed by bending the edges of blank **9** along the three bend lines **19** so that the three flanges are generally perpendicular to plate **11**. Blank **9** is made of a material of sufficient strength and rigidity to support a mirror, preferably **16** gauge cold-rolled steel. A mirror retaining angle iron **16**, also formed of **16** gauge cold-rolled steel or equivalent, is mounted on plate **11** adjacent to and parallel to the mirror flange **14**, so as to define a mirror retaining channel **18**. Preferably, the downwardly (or upwardly, depending on orientation of bracket **10**) depending wall of angle iron **16** extends beyond the terminal edge of flange **14** to facilitate mounting mirror **20** as hereinafter explained.

Both side flange **12** and rear flange **13** contain a plurality of attaching holes **17** which receive screws **40** used to attach the flanges to the walls. Both side flange **12** and rear flange **13** extend downwardly (or upwardly, depending on the orientation of bracket **10**) beyond the terminal edge of the downwardly (or upwardly, depending on the orientation of bracket **10**) depending wall of angle iron **16** a sufficient distance so that attaching holes **17** are also located beyond the terminal edge of the depending wall of angle iron **16**. Such location of attaching holes **17** facilitates attachment of the bracket to the walls because the blade of a screwdriver used to drive screws **40** can be positioned flat against the heads of screws **40**.

The corner point **15** enables the complete sealing of the bracket against the corner. Prior art corner brackets and shelves do not include this sealing point, apparently so that problems with fitting these brackets and shelves into the corner are alleviated. However, without corner

point **15**, small articles such as price tags and labels may be hidden behind the mirror.

The corner point **15** is formed when the blank is cut by removing a portion, here approximately 1", of side flange **12** and rear flange **13**. This creates a very thin space on each side of corner **15** which will accommodate installation of the bracket in an imperfectly square corner. Therefore, the corner point **15** varies slightly from being square with respect to side and rear flanges **12** and **13** to facilitate the bracket's installation in corners which are imperfect, but the variation must be slight enough so that corner point **15** still fits sufficiently snugly into the corner to prevent one from pushing tags and labels around it. Preferably, such variation is no greater than the thickness of the metal of side and rear flanges **12** and **13**.

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **4**, mirror **20** is installed using two oppositely mounted brackets **10**. Rear flange **13** of each bracket is attached to rear wall **30** of the dressing room and side flange **12** is attached to side wall **31** of the dressing room. These attachments are performed using screws **40** which pass through attaching holes **17** and into the walls **30** and **31**. A hardboard channel filler **22** is then placed in retaining channel **18** of the lower bracket in order to provide a shock absorbing material upon which mirror **20** rests. Channel filler **22** extends the full width and length of retaining channel **18** but not the full height; thus retaining channel **18** may still receive the edge of mirror **20** and mirror backer **21**.

Finally, mirror backer **21** and the mirror **20** are fitted into the retaining channels **18** of the upper and lower brackets. Top bracket **10** is spaced above bottom bracket **10** a distance such that one can slide mirror **20** up into top channel **18**, swing the bottom of mirror **20** past the top of bottom flange **14** until it hits the depending portion of angle iron **16** and then slide it down into bottom channel **18**. Suction cup handles are used to facilitate this operation.

Because brackets **10** are reversible, mirror **20** can be mounted in any corner of the fitting room at either of two angles. Once installed, plate **11** with corner point **15** prevents one who is using the fitting room from stuffing clothes, price tags or lables behind mirror **20**.

A fragmentary view of an alternative embodiment **10'** of bracket **10** is shown in FIG. **5** wherein rear flange **13'** (as well as the side flange) is bent in a direction opposite to that of mirror flange **14'**. When brackets **10'** are used to install a mirror, rear flanges **13'** (as well as the side flanges) of upper and lower brackets **10'** extend outwardly from the assembly and away from each other. Attaching holes **17'** in rear flange **13'** (as well as the side flange) are therefor easily accessible for installation of screws **40'**. Whereas the first alternative embodiment results in bracket **10** having a more aesthetically pleasing appearance when installed, this second alternative embodiment facilitates easier installation of bracket **10'**.

Of course, it is understood that the above is merely a preferred embodiment of the invention and that various changes and alternatives can be made without departing from the spirit and broader aspects of the invention as set forth in the appended claims which are to be interpreted in accordance with the principles of patent law, including the doctrine of equivalents.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows.

1. A fitting room mirror assembly for installation in a fitting room having a first wall and a second wall adjacent to said first wall, including two mirror brackets, one of which is located above the other and each of which is attached to both said first wall and said second wall, for supporting a mirror between said mirror brackets, the improvement in said assembly comprising:

each of said mirror brackets comprising a generally flat nonapertured plate made of a material of sufficient strength and rigidity to support a mirror, said plate being generally triangular in shape defined by a first edge, a second edge, and a third edge;

securing means for securing said first edge and said second edge of said plate to said first wall and said second wall of a fitting room respectively;

and receiving means on said third edge of said plate for receiving and supporting an edge of said mirror, said third edge of said plate being substantially the same length as said edge of said mirror to be supported thereby.

2. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **1** in which the corner point formed by the intersection of said first edge and said second edge on said plate fits sufficiently snugly into the corner formed by said first wall and said second wall so as to prevent tags and labels from passing between said corner point and said first wall or said second wall.

3. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **2** in which said first and second edges are, for a short distance from said corner point, trimmed back a distance not to exceed the thickness of said plate so as to define a gap between said trimmed edge portions and the walls of a fitting room to allow for non-square corners in a fitting room.

4. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **3** in which said receiving means comprises a channel defined by a third flange running along said third edge of said plate, said third flange being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a first direction, and an angle iron attached to said plate and including a freestanding flange parallel to said third flange, said channel being of a width so as to receive said mirror.

5. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **4** in which said freestanding flange of said angle iron extends beyond said third flange.

6. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **5** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in said first direction.

7. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **6** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

8. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **7** in which said holes are located in said first and second flanges farther from said plate than the terminal edge of said freestanding flange of said angle iron.

9. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **5** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said

plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a second direction, said second direction being generally opposite to said first direction.

10. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **9** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

11. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **1**, **2** or **3** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate.

12. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **11** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

13. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **1**, **2** or **3** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a second direction, said second direction being generally opposite to said first direction.

14. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **13** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

15. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **1** in which said receiving means comprises a channel defined by a third flange running along said third edge of said plate, said third flange being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a first direction, and an angle iron attached to said plate and including a freestanding flange parallel to said third flange, said channel being of a width so as to receive said mirror.

16. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **15** in which said freestanding flange of said angle iron extends beyond said third flange.

17. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **16** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in said first direction.

18. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **17** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

19. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **18** in which said holes are located in said first and second flanges farther from said plate than the terminal edge of said freestanding flange of said angle iron.

20. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **16** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a second direction, said second direction being generally opposite to said first direction.

21. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **20** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

22. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **15** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a second direction, said second direction being generally opposite to said first direction.

23. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **22** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

24. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **23** in which said holes are located in said first and second flanges farther from said plate than the terminal edge of said freestanding flange of said angle iron.

25. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **15** in which said securing means comprises a first flange running along said first edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said first flange to said first wall and a second flange running along said second edge of said plate and fastening means to fasten said second flange to said second wall, said first and second flanges being generally perpendicular to said plate and extending away from said plate in a second direction, said second direction being generally opposite to said first direction.

26. The fitting room mirror assembly of claim **25** in which said fastening means comprises a plurality of holes in both said first and second flanges and screws passing through said holes and into said first and second walls fastening said first and second flanges to said first and second walls respectively.

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